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AHEAD OF THE CURVE

Galleria area earns EPA recognition for traffic efforts

By Janet Frankston
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The Cumberland-Galleria business district, centered around I-75 and I-285, has been recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as one of the "Best Workplaces for Commuters."

Cumberland's Commuter Club helps some of the 70,000 employees in the area get to work. The group arranges 38 vanpools, carrying about 350 commuters, and assists in arranging carpools, said Malaika Rivers, the club's executive director. Commuters also can get discounted MARTA and Cobb Community Transit fares.

The national designation is awarded to businesses, organizations and districts that meet a standard of excellence in commuter benefits. Other areas to receive the nod were business districts in Boulder and Aspen, Colo., and business parks in San Ramon and Pleasanton, Calif.

Cobb's district is the largest in the country, said Robin Snyder, a program manager with the EPA. "They make a significant impact in reducing congestion and improving air quality for their community," she said.

The designation doesn't come with any money, only bragging rights for businesses in the area such as Home Depot, Cousins Properties, Worldspan and GE Power Systems.